

Emissions Avoidance

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Definition and concept of emission avoidance (EA) - as it goes beyond removals and emission reductions

Emissions Avoidance - full displacement or prevention of GHG emissions expected to be generated by planned GHG emitting actions in energy, transport, manufacturing, agriculture, human induced deforestation, and other GHG emitting development activities.

Full prevention of GHGs will translate to full avoidance of impacts from GHGs which aggravate global warming which translate to accelerated climate change.

It is just another word for prevention; unnecessary emissions will no longer be generated by developing countries if they have already acquired the means of implementation; rather than having the actual emissions that should be cleaned up or mitigated later on.

It can be integrated in policies and measures (PAMs) with GHG displacement potential which may include mitigation technologies and approaches on the verge of commercialization.

As an example, emissions can be fully displaced or avoided through:

- *non-GHG emitting technologies;*
- *or avoided emissions from planned fossil fuel-based projects or facilities for energy generation, transport, industries, etc.;*
- *or it can be avoided emissions due to land use change from forest to agriculture.*

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This represents higher GHG mitigation impact than projects or interventions that simply reduce emissions (e.g. energy efficiency, absorption/removals of emissions through sinks which are not sufficient enough to achieve net zero emission).

We should be reminded that developing countries not having the means of Implementation to shift significantly or fully to zero GHG emitting technologies, are guaranteed by the Convention the right to use whatever means for their sustainable socio-economic development. Hence, the proposal for full GHG avoidance projects to be eligible for the Article 6 mechanisms of the PA.

EA's relation to prevention of emissions and impact assessment and risk management

Risk management as a framework for crisis management

- Prevention of the adverse impacts can happen if we avoid the source of the problem
- Emissions reduction as a risk management measure which will prevent the potential adverse impact of the source of risks- which in this case, are the greenhouse gases. EA will thoroughly prevent the problem from happening or aggravating.
- Full prevention of GHGs will translate to full avoidance of impacts from GHGs which aggravate global warming which translate to accelerated climate change.

Avoidance has a place in Article 6

Article 6.2 specifically mandates the deliberation on Avoidance by the SBSTA (per decision 2 /CMA.3, para 4-c), on whether it can be an eligible class of activities under 6.2.

Expectation is its inclusion in the relevant decision(s) in the forthcoming CoP 27, to correct a gross oversight and mistake during the last CoP. The Philippines was not remiss in introducing the concept as early as CoP 25 in Madrid.

Definition of Emissions Avoidance in the Convention

- The concept of Emissions Avoidance is embedded in the risk management concept: actions that prevent, reduce and address the causes and impacts of a threat, in this case, climate change.
- The main concept of elaborating it is "avoiding or averting climate change" as stipulated in the preambular paragraphs of the Convention and all throughout the operative text.
- The specific word may not be there but the concept is distributed all over the text. The principle, from which are drawn successive actions includes the precautionary principle (Principle 3 of the Convention) that affirms that – “Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.”

EA as an additional mitigation option

- The Philippines' position is clear: we need to expand the definition of mitigation options to include emission avoidance. Doing otherwise will limit the options and restrict opportunities for developing countries to contribute to mitigation and achieve sustainable development and growth. This is a pragmatic approach which we believe will deliver results based on the targets we have set.
- Parties should not just be satisfied with given palliative solutions like Emissions reduction or even Emissions absorption like sinks which will never result to net zero global emissions if they do not drastically use the option of Emissions avoidance.